

~~No action required by us at this time, but you should be aware of the issue.~~

4. Recommended reading.

CVB

COL BUNNELL

proposed CM attached

CVB

REGISTER OF PERSONNEL HANDLING CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT

CONTROL NUMBER

823

DATE RECEIVED

14 Mar 75

RETURN TO

OFFICE, CHAIRMAN, JCS
ROOM 2E865, THE PENTAGON

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~

DOCUMENT NUMBER

Memo to SecDef from ActSecState (Ingersoll)

COPY NUMBER

DATE OF DOCUMENT

13 Mar & 5

SUBJECT

Temporary Reduction in MIL GROUP Argentina

Declassified

Case: 17X-

4445 Date:

08-02-2013

THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN THIS OFFICE. CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENT WILL BE LIMITED TO INDIVIDUALS INDICATED BELOW. THE DOCUMENT WILL BE RETURNED ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE FOR RECORD PRIOR TO DISPATCH TO ANOTHER OFFICE, OR OTHER DISPOSITION. THIS FORM WILL NOT BE REMOVED FROM SUBJECT DOCUMENT.

TO	NAME	INITIAL	REMARKS
	CHAIRMAN, JCS	00	DJS-info
3	EXECUTIVE	02	J-5-info
2	THE ASSISTANT TO THE CHAIRMAN	01	J-1-info
4	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	04	NO SHOW HAS SEEN
	CHAIRMAN'S STAFF GROUP AIR FORCE MBR	01B	DECLASSIFIED BY JOINT STAFF OCT 05 2000
	CHAIRMAN'S STAFF GROUP NAVY MBR	01C	DATE: 14 March 1975
1	CHAIRMAN'S STAFF GROUP MARINE MBR	01D	1. Since the beginning of terrorist activity in Argentina, more than a year ago, there has been a disagreement between State and Defense concerning reductions of our military personnel stationed in that country. Ambassador Hill; supported by State, has pushed for sharp cuts in the Attache office and in the MILGP. Defense has gone along with modest cuts but has resisted major cuts, contending that <u>it is very important that we continue our good relationship with the Argentinean military.</u>
	CHAIRMAN'S STAFF GROUP ARMY MBR	01E	
	LEGAL ADVISOR AND LEGISLATIVE ASST	01F	
	SPECIAL ASSISTANT (SPEECHES)	01G	
	MARINE AIDE	05	2. As a result of the recent kidnapping and killing of the Honorary Counsel in Cordoba, State (Bob Ingersoll) here writes a letter to SECDEF, arguing once more that the Attache office and MILGP should be cut.
	ARMY AIDE	06	
	3. The basic argument revolves around the first paragraph on page 2. State contends that the way to reduce terrorism is to "diminish the number of targets." Mr. Clements and the JCS have labeled this argument as silly. If a terrorist wants to kidnap or kill an American, it makes little sense whether or Mission there has 25 or 10 military officers. When you reduce the Mission you are giving in to the terrorist objective. The message that you pass by reducing your Mission is that terrorism pays. With Mr. Clements supporting our side, the debate is now at the SECDEF/Ingersoll level.		

File 0

18 MAR 1975

~~SECRET~~ Memo File

File 0/085-1446

820 (Misc) Argentina - 13 MAR 75

Seems to me "reducing the number of targets" only helps when the threat is indiscriminate "area" firing (i.e. rockets etc). It doesn't help when the threat is the targeting of individuals by snipers or kidnapping.

873

~~SECRET~~

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROUTING SLIP

TO	ACT COPY TO	INFO COPY TO	TO	ACT COPY TO	INFO COPY TO
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE		✓	ASD (Public Affairs)		
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE		✓	GENERAL COUNSEL		
THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT			DIR, TACCS		
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY			ATSD (Atomic Energy)		
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY			ASST TO SEC DEF & DEP SEC DEF		
✓ SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE			DEF ADV RES PROJ AGENCY		
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF		✓	DEFENSE CIVIL PREPAREDNESS AGENCY		
DIR OF DEF RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING			DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY		
ASD (Comptroller)			DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT AGENCY		
DASD (Administration)			DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY		✓
ASD (Health and Environment)			DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY		
ASD (Installations and Logistics)			DEFENSE NUCLEAR AGENCY		
ASD (Intelligence)		✓	DEFENSE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AGENCY		
1 ASD (International Security Affairs)	✓		DEFENSE SUPPLY AGENCY		
ASD (Legislative Affairs)			NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY		
ASD (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)					
ASD (Program Analysis and Evaluation)					

ACTION REQUIRED

PREP OF REPLY FOR SEC OF DEF SIGNATURE	INFORMATION AND RETENTION
PREP OF REPLY FOR DEP SEC OF DEF SIGNATURE	COMMENTS AND/OR RECOMMENDATION
REPLY DIRECT (Fwd cy of reply for Sec of Def records)	COORDINATE REPLY WITH
APPROPRIATE ACTION	

REMARKS

~~SECRET~~

(This form is unclassified when separated from classified documents)

THIS IS AN -

☐ ACTION COPY

☐ ADVANCE ACTION COPY

✓ ☐ INFORMATION COPY

ACTION DUE NOT LATER THAN

20 MAR 1975

ROUTING DATE

13 MAR 1975

OSD CONTROL NUMBER

0734

3D FORM 14
1 SEP 74

PREVIOUS EDITIONS ARE OBSOLETE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 13, 1975

~~SECRET~~

Dear Jim:

In the wake of the murder of our Consular Agent in Cordoba, Argentina, I have again reviewed the exchange of correspondence between our Departments relating to the proposed temporary reduction in DOD official personnel in Argentina. This step is part of an over-all effort to limit the targets for possible terrorist action against the U.S. mission in Argentina. I firmly believe that the wise course of action is to support the temporary reductions which are recommended by Ambassador Hill.

The threat to the U.S. Government personnel in Argentina at this time is incontrovertible. The intelligence reports referred to in my letter of November 26 to Bill Clements provide graphic evidence of this. Ambassador Hill, with the endorsement of the Embassy's Security Watch Committee, has advised me that terrorism in Argentina remains a great danger to our mission. In the circumstances, prudence dictates that we reduce manning levels throughout the mission to the absolute minimum required to conduct essential U.S. business in Argentina until the security situation improves. We must act now to attempt to avert further tragedy and not react later to a fait accompli.

In his letter Bill Clements proposed that dependents of mission personnel be withdrawn from Argentina rather than principals. However, we believe that this measure would not serve to lower appreciably the mission's vulnerability to terrorist attack. Dependents have not been a major target for terrorist groups in Argentina. Women and children have been occasionally affected by the violence, but only as a

The Honorable
James R. Schlesinger,
Secretary of Defense.

NO JOINT STAFF OBJECTION
TO DECLASSIFICATION
REQUIRES CONCURRENCE OF

State
DATE: 8 Oct 2000

~~SECRET~~
GDS

SEC DEF CONTR No. X- 0734

~~SECRET~~

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result of physical proximity to a principal terrorist target. The only effective action is to diminish the number of targets among the official personnel in Argentina, especially those considered by the Security Watch Committee to be high risks. All military personnel are considered to be in this category.

The specific reductions proposed for each mission component were carefully programmed by the Ambassador in conjunction with members of his country team. I understand that the Commander of the MILGRP and the DATT participated in these deliberations. It was agreed that the vital duties of the mission elements could be carried out by the smaller staff which would remain. Other important work would necessarily be deferred until the security situation permitted the restoration of full personnel complements.

It is essential that every agency support the Ambassador's effort to conduct the mission in Argentina at the level he deems most advisable in this difficult period. Any absence of unanimity in applying the reduction leads to interagency recrimination and undermines the Ambassador's leadership. A determination by one agency not to reduce its personnel in Argentina will have an adverse impact on the morale of other mission sections hardpressed to meet work requirements with reduced personnel.

In his letter, Bill Clements noted that the U.S. military accepts assignments in high risk areas as a necessary aspect of military service. While I respect this fact, it is also true that the kidnapping or assassination of a U.S. military officer or enlisted man in Argentina would involve even greater diplomatic and political complications than a terrorist act against a U.S. civilian because of the possible implications of a U.S. military involvement in Argentina.

I share Bill Clements' concern that this matter be handled in keeping with the mission agreements in effect between the U.S. and Argentina. Although the

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record is not clear that the Government of Argentina was consulted prior to each reduction in MILGRP personnel from peak levels in FY-68, I agree that it would be desirable to consult in this instance. Accordingly, I would appreciate your concurring in a message to Buenos Aires instructing the Ambassador and the MILGRP Commander to call on the Minister of Defense or his designee to explain these reductions, and to emphasize their temporary nature. We would then be in a position to effect the proposed reduction of the MILGRP from 20 to 13. With respect to the DAO, I propose that we move ahead immediately to approve and implement the proposed temporary reduction from 11 to 7 by moving the Attache aircraft to a neighboring country for a time.

Let me emphasize that the Department of State regards it as important to the U.S. interest to maintain good relations with the Argentine military. At such time as the terrorist threat in Argentina diminishes significantly, it is fully intended that the MILGRP and DAO personnel complements be returned to normal levels. Meanwhile, Ambassador Hill has urged that we not postpone action on this matter any longer. I hope you will agree with me to support his position.

I wanted you to have this explanation of our view in writing before discussing it with you. I will be telephoning you within the next twenty-four hours to solicit your support.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,



Robert S. Ingersoll
Acting Secretary

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